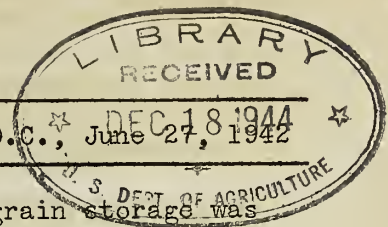


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Cap. 2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Administration



No. 22

AMA "WAR BOARD" LETTER

Wash., D.C., DEC 18 1944
JUN 27 1942

STORAGE: First shipment of prefabricated bins for farm grain storage was made by Texas firm operating under Commodity Credit Corporation program on June 23. Program, designed to alleviate extremely tight grain storage situation, provides for maximum of 100,000,000 bushels of prefabricated or precut bins. CCC has had WPB authority to acquire lumber for bins for some time. Just got WPB A-2 rating for nails and hardware first of week. First shipment of bins made immediately thereafter. CCC expects that big production will get under way next week. Applications for bins should be made through local AAA committee.

CONTAINERS: WPB has issued order (M-81-A) asking for further voluntary conservation in use of tin cans. Packers of certain foods (asparagus, green and wax beans, fish & shell fish, frozen foods, etc.) are asked to substitute electrolytic tin plate for regular cans where possible. Packers of edible oils, lard and other fats, dry baby formulas, milk, dehydrated vegetables, etc. are asked to substitute chemically treated blackplate.

New technical Glass Packing advisory committee is being formed by WPB to give advice to war agencies and food packers on procedures and equipment necessary for packing foods in glass containers. OAWR will represent USDA on group.

Further restrictions on use of cellophane are provided in amendment to WPB order (L-20). Would prohibit use of product to wrap all animal foods and use for window cartons and overwraps where used as protection for carton rather than product itself.

Price ceilings have been set on seasonal wooden containers for farm products (OPA Maximum Price Regulation No. 160). Covers all wooden containers used for fruits and vegetables except cooperage products and used containers. Price regulation covers entire country except Western Area, Calif., Wash., Ore., Idaho, Mont., Wyo., Utah, Nevada, Ariz., N. Mex., and Colo., which will shortly receive a separate price regulation.

DRIED EGGS: Acting to improve quality of dried egg production in US, AMA and Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry & Engineering, are cooperating in program to reduce bacteria count in egg powder and introduce better production techniques. Have set up a laboratory on wheels now visiting egg drying plants in Mid-West. Techniques for manufacture, which assure a superior product, have been developed in USDA laboratories and will in this way be carried to field. Practical application of these methods and bacteria studies will be major job of traveling laboratory. Plant by plant study will be made of factory methods of processing eggs for powder, from the manner in which shell eggs are received and handled in each plant to final packing, storing and shipping of finished product. Object of project is reduction of bacteria in egg powder to improve its wholesomeness, taste and keeping qualities. Industry technical and administrative committees are working in cooperation with USDA experts and have set for their goal the production of a uniform product, wholesome enough to be used in any form on any table.

FERTILIZER: Because of shipping shortage import quota of sodium nitrate has been cut. Original quota of 100,000 tons monthly will prevail in July and August, but for remaining four months will be dropped to 60,000 tons monthly. War Shipping Administration has been directed to consider these figures a minimum and to bring in larger quantities if possible. Situation will be reexamined at end of August.

VICTORY FOOD SPECIALS: Tomatoes will be featured nationally beginning Monday June 29 to July 4; beets and snap beans, locally, north of Virginia and east of Ohio, July 6-12; broilers and fryers July 16-25; peaches July 16-August 5.

Supply of beets in northeast area is expected to be heavy with liberal quantities continuing all summer; same is true of snap beans, production of which is considerably above last year and over average. Snap bean program will catch output of southern producing sections.

Heavy supplies of broilers and fryers are largely result of increased poultry and egg production to meet wartime requirements - a production that has surpassed all previous records. Chick hatch this year was up 16 per cent for nation as whole, with 25 per cent increase in midwest during first five months.

Peach crop this year estimated to be 25 per cent larger than 1941.

TRANSPORTATION: Still no indication what ODT will do on orders requiring full loads to destination and 75 per cent full loads on back-haul, which are scheduled to become effective July 1. USDA officials closely in touch with situation and expect action during coming week.

OPA has given assurance that information indicating actual shortage of gasoline in any area will be investigated within an hour and gasoline released if report is verified by their check.

FOOD STAMP LIST has been changed for July. Fresh peaches, fresh plums, fresh apples and Irish potatoes have been added; dried prunes, which are being acquired in large quantities for the armed forces, and fresh grapefruit, for which season of heavy marketing is about over, have been dropped from list. Oranges, all fresh vegetables, sweet potatoes, shell eggs, butter, cornmeal, hominy, (corn) grits, dry edible beans, wheat flour, enriched wheat flour, self-rising flour, enriched self-rising flour, and whole wheat (Graham) flour remain on list...